

Should I get a Carbon Monoxide Detector?

You can get a carbon monoxide detector, but a detector does not protect you from carbon monoxide poisoning. The best way to be safe from carbon monoxide is to properly use and take care of your fuel-burning appliances.

You can buy carbon monoxide detectors in hardware stores. Make sure the detector you buy is UL-certified. Follow all instructions on how to install, use, and keep up your detector.

Buying a carbon monoxide detector is a good idea, but a detector does not protect you from carbon monoxide poisoning.

What should I do if my Carbon Monoxide detector goes off?

- If no one is feeling ill: Silence the alarm.
- Turn off all gas burning and/or fuel burning appliances.
- Open windows and doors to get fresh air.
- Call a qualified technician to see what may be a source of carbon monoxide.



CR-005572 MAC 11/03

CARBON MONOXIDE



The Big Deal!

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a deadly substance. You cannot see, smell or taste carbon monoxide. Hundreds of people die every year from carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is found in your home, at work, in your garage, in your car and on your boat. Knowing the facts about carbon monoxide can lower the number of deadly accidents and save lives.

How can Carbon Monoxide hurt me?

Carbon Monoxide is a poisonous gas. It can cause brain damage, suffocation or death. When you breathe carbon monoxide, good oxygen leaves your bloodstream and carbon monoxide takes its place. High levels of carbon monoxide in your blood can damage your heart, brain and other body systems.

Where does Carbon Monoxide come from?

Carbon Monoxide comes from the burning of fuels (gasoline, kerosene, wood, gas, etc.). Appliances that are not working the right way or are not ventilated also produce carbon monoxide.

Some appliances that produce Carbon Monoxide are:

- Unvented kerosene heaters
- Leaking chimneys
- Gas water heaters
- Fireplaces
- Car or truck exhaust in a closed space, like a garage
- Gas space heaters
- Leaking furnaces
- Wood stoves
- Gas stoves
- Tobacco smoke

What are symptoms of Carbon Monoxide poisoning?

- Severe headache
- Confused about surroundings
- Sleepiness
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Dizziness
- Fainting

Sometimes, people with these symptoms think they are getting the flu.

How can I lower my risk of Carbon Monoxide exposure?

- Choose appliances that are safe and that work the right way.
- Repair and take care of your appliances as needed.
- Have a qualified technician check all fuel burning appliances, furnaces, venting and chimney systems at least once a year.
- Make sure your home is well ventilated.
- Use your appliances the proper way. *Example:* never use a gas range or oven to heat your home.

If anyone is having symptoms of Carbon Monoxide poisoning:

- Leave the house immediately.
- Call 911 and tell what your symptoms are, how many people are sick and that you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning.
- DO NOT go back in the house without being told it's safe.
- Call a qualified technician to repair the source of carbon monoxide.